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STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Helping Floridians create safe, vibrant, sustainable communities"

LAWTON CHILES
Governor

JAMES F. MURLEY
Secretary

May 12, 1998

Ms. Kunkum Ray
Engineering and Operations Department
Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Mail Stop 4024
381 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4917

RE: U.S. Department of the Interior - Minerals Management Service - Federal
Register - Proposed Rule for Postlease Operations Safety - Statewide
SAI: FL9802160080C

Dear Ms. Ray:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced proposed rule.

The Department of Community Affairs, designated as the state's lead coastal agency pursuant to section 306 (c) of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. section 1456 (c) and section 380.22, Florida Statutes (F.S.), hereby notifies the Minerals Management Service (MMS) that the rule is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The Governor's Environmental Policy Office offers the following comments.

The proposed revisions to 30 CFR Parts 218, 250 and 256 are intended to update and clarify MMS regulations concerning postlease operations. One proposed change to 30 CFR Subpart A, section 250.2, is to delete the definition of "Eastern Gulf of Mexico" which means "all OCS areas in the Gulf of Mexico deemed by the Director to be adjacent to the State of Florida." The existing and proposed definitions are for the entire Part 250; however, some of the subparts have definitions specific to just that subpart. While the Eastern Gulf of Mexico is not referenced in Subpart A, there are references to the Western Gulf of Mexico in sections 250.30,

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781
Internet address: <http://www.state.fl.us/comaff/dca.html>

FLORIDA KEYS
Area of Critical State Concern Field Office
2795 Overseas Highway, Suite 212
Marathon, Florida 33970-3377

GLIER STRAND
Area of Critical State Concern Field Office
135 East Greenway
Bartow, Florida 33632-6445

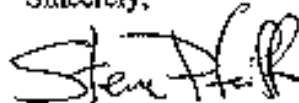
SOUTH FLORIDA RECOVERY OFFICE
P.O. Box 4012
8800 N.W. 16th Street
Miami, Florida 33155-4012

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250.33 and 250.34. In the existing regulations, the Eastern Gulf of Mexico definition was at least sufficient to delineate the two areas. Therefore, it is important for MMS to define "Western Gulf of Mexico." Definitions for both the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and Western Gulf of Mexico should be added to Subpart A, Section 250.2.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed revisions to MMS regulations. If you should have any questions, please contact Ms. Debby Tucker, Governor's Office, at (850) 488-5551.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Pfeiffer".

G. Steven Pfeiffer
Assistant Secretary

GSP/cj

Enclosures

cc: Debby Tucker, Governor's Office
Lynn Griffin, Department of Environmental Protection